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TELEGRAM

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AN: D790075-0680

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-02 SS-15 L-03 SSO-00
SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00
INRE-00 SYE-00 /059 W

-----080360 171004Z /10
O R 170832Z FEB 79 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2237
AMEMBASSY MADRID NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 4/23/48

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1163

MADRID, PLEASE PASS TO DUBS PARTY

E.O. 12065: GDS 2-17-85 (AMSTUTZ, J. BRUCE)

TAGS: PINR, ASEC, AF

SUBJECT: DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS: DELIVERY OF ACTING SECRETARY'S
PROTEST TO AFGHAN GOVERNMENT

REF: (A) STATE 39815, (B) STATE 29812

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN WAS UNABLE TO GIVE ME AN APPOINTMENT BEFORE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, I CALLED ON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DOST THIS MORNING, FEBRUARY 17, TO DELIVER ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S LETTER ADDRESSED TO AMIN (REFTEL A). COUNTRY DIRECTOR COON ACCOMPANIED ME. I SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY READ THE LETTER TO DOST BEFORE HANDING OVER A COPY. I UNDERScoreD THE CONCERN OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OVER THE DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS AND ALSO INFORMED DOST THAT WE WOULD BE FOLLOWING UP WITH ANOTHER NOTE REQUESTING A FULL REPORT OF THE INCIDENT (REF B).

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3. I ALSO HANDED OVER TO THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER A HANDWRITTEN

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NOTE (TEXT SENT SEPTTEL) PREPARED BY MRS. DUBS LAST NIGHT ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT TARAKI IN WHICH MRS. DUBS ACKNOWLEDGED THE PRESIDENT'S CONDOLENCE MESSAGE. DOST WAS INFORMED THAT THIS LETTER HAS BEEN RELEASED TO THE PRESS.

4. I TOOK THE OCCASION TO THANK THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FOR HIS CALL ON ME YESTERDAY WHEN HE SIGNED THE CONDOLENCE BOOK. I CONVEYED OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE COOPERATION OF THE DRA IN ALL ARRANGMENTS CONNECTED WITH THE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF THE SPECIAL AIRCRAFT.

5. REFERRING TO MY REQUEST FOR A DETAILED REPORT OF THE INCIDENT, I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD INCLUDE AN ACCOUNT OF THE ROLE OF SOVIET ADVISORS. I REMINDED THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER THAT ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER HAD ASKED THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON FOR A FULL ACCOUNT OF SOVIET PARTICIPATION. I ADDED THAT I FELT IT WOULD BE A GRAVE MISTAKE IF THERE WERE AN EFFORT TO DENY THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET ADVISORS WHEN IN FACT WE KNOW THIS TO BE THE CASE FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS OF OUR OFFICERS. (I MADE THIS POINT SINCE POLICE COMMANDANT TAROON YESTERDAY DENIED TO FOREIGN REPORTERS (SEPTTEL) THAT ANY SOVIETS WERE INVOLVED, AND I BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT TO PUT THE DRA ON NOTICE THAT THIS LINE JUST WON'T WASH.)

6. MR. DORST AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS DEEP SORROW OVER THE DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS AND INDICATED THAT "WE WILL TRY OUR BEST TO PROVIDE A DETAILED AND FULL REPORT." HE NOTED THAT MR. AMIN HAD DENIED RUSSIAN PARTICIPATION, BUT AFTER I FIRMLY RESTATED THE FACT THAT O'R OFFICERS HAD BEEN IN PERSONAL CONTACT WITH SOVIETS, DOST SAID HE WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION WITH AMIN AGAIN. DOST CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE HOPED NEITHER SIDE WOULD DO ANYTHING WHICH COULD LEAD TO A DETERIORATION OF OUR RELATIONS AND HE PROMISED THE DRA
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WOULD TRY TO PREVENT SUCH AN EVENTUALITY.

7. ASKED IF HE KNEW ANY PARTICULARS ABOUT THE TERRORISTS, DOST MERELY SAID THEY HAD ASKED FOR THE RELEASE OF BAHRUDDIN BAHES, WHO HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN TERRORIST ATTACKS IN BHADAKSHAN, WAS CAPTURED, HOSPITALIZED AND SUBSEQUENTLY ESCAPED. DOST DID NOT BELIEVE HE WAS IN AFGHANISTAN AND DOUBTED THAT HE WAS STILL ALIVE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY, HE DID NOT ASCRIBE A POLITICAL ONE TO BAHES, BUT REFERRED TO HIS GROUP AS "TERRORISTS".

8. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING IF THE
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DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO MAKE PUBLIC EITHER THE CONTENTS OF THE CHRISTOPHER LETTER OR THE FACT THAT WE HAVE DELIVERED A STRONG PROTEST. WE WILL AWAIT DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE BEFORE SAYING ANYTHING TO THE PRESS HERE.
AMSTUTZ

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